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MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

# Record

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## JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION NOV 16 2009

# House passes health bill sans abortion

**WASHINGTON (BP and local reports)** — Pro-lifers won a victory November 7 in the battle over health reform legislation when the U.S. House of Representatives approved an amendment by a vote of 240-194 that would prohibit the legislation from covering or funding abortion, minutes before the health care bill itself (H.R. 3962) passed by a vote of 220-215.

The win on the Stupak amendment may not last long, however, because of the possibility that the amendment could be negotiated out of the final bill by the conference committee that will meet to settle differences between the House version of the bill and any Senate version that may be approved in the coming days or months.

Mississippi Congressman Bennie Thompson, a Democrat, voted against the Stupak amendment. Mississippi Congressmen voting in favor of the amendment were Democrats Travis Childers and Gene Taylor, and Republican Gregg Harper.

On the final version of the bill that was approved by the House and sent to the Senate, Thompson voted yes while Childers, Taylor, and Harper voted no.

A survey of the Mississippi Congressmen's web sites included the following excerpts on health care reform:

• **Travis Childers** — "First and foremost, I cannot vote for legislation with this big of a price tag in today's economic climate. I would also like to see legislation that contains stronger language to prohibit federal funding for abortion and provides equal access to care for individuals in rural communities. My concerns in these areas have not been sufficiently addressed by this legislation."

• **Bennie Thompson** — "For too long, our country has stood idly by and watched health care costs shoot through the roof. Rather than kick the can down the road, now is the time for us to provide every American

with affordable access to health care. Our most vulnerable populations deserve a better partner in the federal government when it comes to health care. For some of us, health-care reform is more than just about saving money, it's about saving lives."

• **Gregg Harper** — "After weeks of negotiating behind closed doors, Democratic leaders emerged today with a plan that will increase premiums for Mississippi families by \$3,869 per year according to an analysis by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. Negotiators claim they were able to 'lower the price tag' of the legislation by expanding Medicaid. The truth is the federal government has irresponsibly pitched the burden to individuals through increased premiums for private policy holders and states in the form of unfunded mandates that will cost Mississippi an additional \$200 million a year."

• **Gene Taylor** — "I do not believe that it is economically possible for one-fourth of all spending in the United States to be spent on health care. It also is not possible for the federal government to keep spending more and more every year on health care. There are just too many other needs for individuals, families, communities, and the nation that would have to be neglected for us to afford to spend so much on health care."

The fact that the Stupak amendment even received a vote seemed improbable just 24 hours earlier, but Democratic leaders saw that without winning a block of roughly 40 pro-life members of their own party, the overall health care bill had little chance of passage.

Representative Bart Stupak, D-Mich., and the 40 members had been trying for weeks to get a floor vote on the amendment, which was narrowly defeated in committee. They threatened to try to prevent the bill from coming to the floor if their amendment wasn't considered.

It was a tough pill to swallow for pro-abortion House members, many of whom had assumed the Stupak amendment wouldn't receive a vote because Democratic leaders — including Speaker Nancy Pelosi — opposed it.

The amendment, sponsored by Stupak, prohibits the government-run public option from covering elective abortions and also prevents federal subsidies — that is, subsidies given to lower-income people — from paying for insurance plans that cover elective abortion.

The amendment received the votes of 176 Republicans and 64 Democrats. Opposing it were 194 Democrats, including Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer.

Even so, Douglas Johnson, National Right to Life Committee legislative director, said "there is a long battle ahead." He charged that the Obama administration and congressional Democratic leaders had "spent months concealing and misrepresenting provisions that would directly fund abortions," and "we know that the White House and pro-abortion congressional Democratic leaders will keep trying to enact government funding of abortion..."

The Senate is working on its own version of the health care bill, and — assuming it passes that chamber — will be merged with the House bill in conference. Abortion rights groups, including Planned Parenthood, pledged to try to kill the amendment before any bill goes to the president.

Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards applauded the members who voted against it and said the group "will work with those members to rectify this travesty."

Stupak, who voted for the overall bill, said his amendment simply applied the Hyde Amendment — which is current law — to the health care bill. The Hyde Amendment prevents Medicaid from paying for elective abortions.

### AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT (H.R. 3692).

STUPAK AMENDMENT: PASSED 240-195

FINAL VOTE: PASSED 220-215



Travis Childers  
First Congressional District

Yes

No



Bennie Thompson  
Second Congressional District

No

Yes



Gregg Harper  
Third Congressional District

Yes

No



Gene Taylor  
Fourth Congressional District

Yes

No



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# When funny isn't all that funny

From the amoral playground that we folks out here in flyover country refer to as "Hollyweird" come more examples of just how out of touch with America are many of the people in this country's entertainment industry — and how openly hostile they are to Christianity.

Larry David is a gifted comedian, writer, director, and producer. He's been around the entertainment business a long time. He's also worth an estimated \$200,000,000, thanks to his involvement in the creation of *Seinfeld*, a now-defunct NBC network sitcom that enjoyed the number one rating in all of television for several years.

David's latest endeavor is an HBO cable network offering named *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, which he describes as a show filled with parody and satire. In case you've been in a time capsule since television's *Golden Days*, the modern translation of satire and parody by people like David includes particularly vicious attacks on organized religion. By organized religion, people like David mean Christians.

That brings us to the October 25 episode of *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, in which David as one of the main characters excuses himself to use the bathroom in an acquaintance's apartment. While urinating, David splashes a picture of Jesus Christ that is hanging in the bathroom. A few minutes after David exits the bathroom the apartment's tenant notices

the urine on the picture of Jesus, concludes that the picture of Jesus is crying, and calls for her mother to come see for herself. Assuming the weeping picture is a miracle, the two women kneel in prayer.

Is that funny? David and HBO apparently think so. Deal Hudson, publisher of *InsideCatholic.com*, doesn't.

"Why is it that people are allowed to publicly show that level of disrespect for Christian symbols?" Deal told *FoxNews.com*. "If the same thing was done to a symbol of any other religions — Jewish or Muslim — there'd be a huge outcry. It's simply not a level playing field."

Deal and others have demanded an apology from David and HBO, but don't hold your breath waiting on it.

Roland Emmerich is another gifted member of the entertainment elite. The director of the movies *Independence Day* and *Godzilla* is set to release his latest motion picture entitled *2012*. It's a film about the end of the world based on predictions contained in ancient Mayan calendars.

German and openly homosexual, Emmerich doesn't try to hide his disdain for people of faith. "I am against organized religion," he tells any interviewer who will listen. At least he's a little more subtle about it than David, however.

As the world collapses in a climactic scene from *2012*, Emmerich cuts to the Sistine Chapel in Rome and Michelangelo's exquisite ceiling painting of God and Adam reaching out to each other. As the chapel begins to fall apart, a crack suddenly appears and forms a large gap between the outstretched fingers of God and Adam. Outside, Saint

Peter's Basilica comes apart and crushes people who had gathered there to pray.

All that symbolism wasn't an accident, according to Emmerich. "Why... don't [we] have the church fall on people's head?" he said in an interview with *SciFiWire.com*. "The whole Vatican kind of tips and kind of rolls over the people. It said something, because in the story, some people... believe in praying and prayer, and they pray in front of the church, and it's probably the wrong thing, what they would do in that situation."

By the way, no symbols of other world religions were defiled by David during the *Curb Your Enthusiasm* episode. Likewise, Emmerich freely admits in the *SciFiWire.com* interview that he carefully avoided destroying any Muslim symbols in the movie, lest followers of that faith take offense.

Such bigotry toward Christians and favoritism toward other religions can be disheartening, to say the least. As we strive to take the Gospel to every single person in the world (*Matthew 28:18-20*), there are those who would impede us by using every conceivable tactic to embarrass and demoralize us — including virtually every segment of the entertainment business. Sadly, our society has come to accept such behavior, assuming it's normal.

It isn't normal and it isn't fair, but when has the world ever accepted and treated Christians fairly? Regardless, we should not be deterred from our eternal goal of helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

After what our Lord and Savior did for us, it's the least we can do for Him.

## GUEST OPINION:

### Keep giving during hard times

*By Jerry Mixon, director  
MBCB Stewardship Dept.*

Everyone will agree that we are presently in a financial crisis, and the prevailing attitude among Americans is that it will take three years for the economy to recover. According to recent reports, two out of every three families (68%) have suffered financial setbacks due to the downturn in our economy. Overall, more than one-quarter of adults (28%) say they have lost at least 20% of the value of their retirement. Thirty percent of believers say they lost 20% or more in retirement while non-believers say they lost 37%.

How did individual households react? One out of five households reduced giving to churches and religious centers. Seventeen percent say they have reduced their giving by half, and 11% sliced giving by more than half. Twenty-two percent say they had to stop giving altogether.

How did church leadership respond? The survey reveals that one-third of the churches say they have had someone give "a talk" on the crisis. You can believe the person who gave "the talk" was the pastor. Pastors are getting blamed, and they are called upon to solve the church crisis.

This is a financial crunch for your congregation, but it is also a national problem for everyone. Revenues are down

for the federal government as well as individual states. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board was under budget through October 2009 by 3.63%. In general, most all non-profit organizations and businesses are below financial expectations for this year. Instead of asking the pastor to preach about giving, let me suggest other ways to deal with this crisis:

- Recognize this is not only a local problem, but a national problem. Churches are not alone in budget red ink.

- Your pastor is not to blame for the crisis. He did not create the crisis and neither should he have to solve it alone.

- All of the church leaders should demonstrate restraint and wisdom in financial decisions. Even if your church has increased this past year in numbers, this is not a time to use dated financial projections and models.

- We face a new attitude about giving. Since this crisis, people have altered their attitudes about generosity. Committed givers account for 60% of the church offering dollars. They are faithful, and will be, until Jesus comes. Their giving may be less, but it is because they have less to give. They need only to be appreciated and encouraged.

- Casual givers account for a smaller portion of gifts. Casual givers give only when they have extra money to give or when there is a special need or love offering.

- Casual attendees account for even less. They only give when they attend and that is not often. When they attend, they treat the offering like a toll booth or a concert ticket. If you want to roll, pay the toll. If you see the show, you pay the dough. One casual attendee, after dropping ten dollars in the offering plate, shook hands

with the pastor afterwards and asked for a five dollar refund.

Don't spend all of your time asking the committed to give more. Find a way to reach the casual givers and casual attendees.

As we approach the end of the year, most churches, non-profit organizations, and businesses look for that final fourth-quarter push to put them over the top. Most organizations, including religious, non-profit ones, receive about one-third of their annual income in the last quarter. Churches may expect to see a dip in revenues this year, anywhere from four to six percent in the last quarter. Experts believe non-profit organizations will be hit even harder.

We can panic or we can prepare. We can demonstrate fear or faith. If you are ready to respond to this crisis in faith and not fear, not in panic but in preparing, and if you are ready to embrace a new strategy to develop biblical stewards in your church, call the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Stewardship Department for materials to complete your plans. A free copy of the *Catch the Vision* booklet is available by writing to P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3348 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 348. E-mail: [jmixon@mbcb.org](mailto:jmixon@mbcb.org).

Reference survey: [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org).

# So. Baptists on scene of Ft. Hood massacre

FORT HOOD, Texas (BP and local reports) — About a dozen Southern Baptist chaplains stationed at Fort Hood in central Texas began ministering in the aftermath of a shooting on post November 5 that left 13 people dead and 30 wounded.

"I was told that the chaplains at Fort Hood — about a dozen of whom are Southern Baptist — were involved on the ground yesterday, and started ministering during and right after the incident," Keith Travis, team leader of the chaplaincy evangelism team at the North American Mission Board (NAMB), told Baptist Press on November 6.

"The Army is a big family, and the chaplains are a very prominent part of that family, and they are there right now providing pastoral care to the Fort Hood community," Travis said. "We ask Southern Baptists to pray for our chaplains as they continue to minister."

Gen. Douglas Carver, a Southern Baptist who serves as chief of chaplains for the U.S. Army, was at Fort Hood on November 6 accompanying Secretary of the Army John McHugh. Carver's office told Baptist Press. About 30 grief counselors were available to soldiers at Fort Hood's Spiritual Fitness Center also known as the chapel, according to the post's public affairs office.

Gunfire broke out early in the afternoon Thursday on the world's largest military base as about 300 soldiers were lined up to receive shots and have their eyes checked in preparation for deployment. The alleged gunman, Major Nidal Malik Hasan, a 39-year-old Army psychiatrist, was eventually shot four times by a civilian police officer and is hospitalized on a ventilator, the

Associated Press reported. Soldiers who witnessed the shooting said Hasan, a Muslim, shouted "Allahu Akbar," an Arabic phrase for "God is great," before opening fire, said base commander Lt. Gen. Robert Cone, adding that the comment had not been confirmed.

Officials said the motive for the shooting was unclear, but various reports indicated that Hasan had expressed apprehension over deployment orders as well as disapproval of the war on terror.

Experts attributed the high number of casualties at the Soldier Readiness Center to the close quarters and ricochet fire. Some soldiers rushed to treat others by ripping their uniforms into makeshift bandages, AP said, adding that all but two of the injured were still hospitalized and all were in stable condition.

President Obama ordered that flags be flown at half-staff in what he called a "modest tribute" to those who died and the military personnel who serve the United States, and the Department of Defense observed a moment of silence throughout the world at 1:34 p.m. EST Friday, marking 24 hours after the shooting.

At least six months ago, law enforcement officials noticed Hasan because of comments online about suicide bombings and other threats, including posts that equated suicide bombers to soldiers who throw themselves on a grenade to save the lives of their comrades, AP said.

Investigators had not determined whether Hasan was the author of the posts and a formal investigation had not been opened before the shooting.

Following the incident, NAMB sent an e-mail to its 1,300



Southern Baptist military chaplains, letting them know they are in the staff's prayers and the staff is available to assist them in the aftermath, Travis said.

Bobby Welch, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, told BP he contacted Travis soon after hearing news of the shooting and asked him to convey to the chaplains Southern Baptists' concern and prayers for them.

"I'm shocked by something like that taking place within the ranks of the military," said Welch, who presented the Bible Treasures series of devotionals at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 27-28.

The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention encouraged its churches to remember the families of the victims in prayer and offered assistance to undergird the ministries of the churches in the Fort Hood region.

At Memorial Church in Killeen, three miles from Fort Hood's main gate, about 60 people gathered Thursday night for a question-and-answer time and for prayer. Ken Cavey, the church's pastor and a D.Min. student at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, said church leaders knew people would have spiritual questions following the shooting.

"When something like this happens, you're dealing with a significant breach of trust as well as a significant breach of your own fear," Cavey said, according to AP. "I survived

this, what about the next time?" Cavey said that of the 1,100 people who regularly attend Memorial Church, about 75% either are active or retired members of the military.

First Church in Killeen, another large congregation with strong ties to Fort Hood, was praying for the situation and available to respond to needs.

"This was equal to the Oklahoma City bombing when you say this was an American serviceman who chose to take out his venom on American servicemen," Randy Wallace, pastor of First Church, told AP. "It's more twisted and dark when the enemy is us."

Welch, retired pastor of First Church in Daytona Beach, Fla., told BP the massacre at Fort Hood is a prime opportunity for churches across the Southern Baptist Convention to educate themselves on how to relate to military families, especially regarding combat stress.

Travis and others at NAMB have compiled materials to assist pastors and churches in ministering to the military, and Welch recommended that churches — particularly those in military communities — take advantage of the guidance.

"The language we use concerning these stress situations is so important in order to be helpful to folks," said Welch.

Resources for pastors and chaplains, including video training sessions, a 13-week Bible study and a ministry care plan, are available at [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net).

## Looking back

10 years ago

Pocohontas Church, Metro Association, celebrates its 175th anniversary Oct. 3. The church lays claim to being the oldest Baptist church in Hinds County.

20 years ago

Eddie Hamilton, pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, is elected president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention during the annual meeting in Jackson. Hamilton, 42, is elected in a runoff ballot with Larry Otis, a Tupelo businessman.

30 years ago

The Baptist Orphanage, Jackson, announces that free train transportation for all contributed supplies will be available statewide from Nov. 16 - Dec. 31. Items requested include any types of food and clothing, hay, corn, cottonseed meal, and feed for their dairy herd and livestock.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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VOL. 133

NO. 45



YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Conservative Bible?

NASHVILLE (BP) — Andy Schlafly, son of Eagle Forum founder Phyllis Schlafly, has launched the Conservative Bible Project with a goal of rewriting the English translation of the Bible to remove terms he describes as liberal bias. Schlafly already established Conservapedia, an online tool intended primarily for homeschooled students, to serve as a counterpoint to the popular Wikipedia, which he said contains liberal bias. According to the Conservative Bible Project entry on Conservapedia.com, "Liberal bias has become the single biggest distortion in modern Bible translations." The three sources of errors in conveying biblical meaning, the website says, are a lack of precision in the original language, "such as terms underdeveloped to convey new concepts introduced by Christ;" a lack of precision in modern language; and a translation bias in converting the original language to the modern one. Schlafly said there is no fully conservative translation of the Bible which satisfies 10 guidelines he sets forth. One component he emphasizes is a need to avoid "gender inclusive language and other feminist distortions." Another is a dissatisfaction with the "dumbing down" of Scripture. The New International Version, he said, is written at a seventh-grade level. The inspiration for the project, Schlafly said, came when he attended a church service near his New Jersey home. "There was a reading from the Gospel, and the pronoun used to refer to a child in this translation was 'it,'" he said. "So this translation of the Gospel referred to a child as an 'it,' a thing, and this is liberal, it's offensive, and it's incorrect."

## BIBLIOCIPHER

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NYND, NIZ FYN AJZ JQ  
XENNO, NIZ FYV AJZ JQ  
GNOJW? AJZ XE IJF FYV  
AJZ JQ FYV ZVNZ, WMF  
JQ FYV CXKXIA.

DNFFYVL FLVIFR-FLJ:  
FYXHFR-FLJ

Clue: A = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Malachi Two:Nine

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### THE UNWELCOME WELCOME

Virtually all of our churches have some form of welcome that they try to present to guests each week. There are welcome centers, welcome parking spots, the welcome that takes place during the service, and sometimes a welcome greeting time where supposedly people turn and welcome each other. There are greeters who stand at the door and are supposed to welcome people as they come. All of this is done in an effort to let visitors, strangers, and folks who may be unaccustomed to the culture of our churches feel comfortable and welcome in our midst. Sometimes it seems to work and sometimes it seems to fail miserably.

Recently, I went to the home of some folks I did not know. A strange thing caught my eye when I arrived at the house. It actually was not strange, but the way I saw it was strange. Out in front of their house they had hung one of these beautiful banners. It had fall colors and was flapping in the breeze. One huge word was written across it: "Welcome!" Behind the banner, probably 40 yards away, was another sign and from where I was it seemed to be just above and a little to the side of the welcome sign. It was on the fence that came out from the side of their house and went around their backyard: "Beware of the Dog." So get the picture that comes in focus from where I was looking at two signs in the same yard, one warmly saying Welcome and another with a serious warning, Beware of the Dog. I did not know them and I had not met their dog, but I heard the barks that were coming from the backyard and realized that this sign was either seriously trying to keep me out of the backyard or giving me an honest evaluation of what might happen from the animal with the ferocious bark.

As I started toward the house, I confess that as I processed the two signs and their messages, I frankly did not feel as warm and welcome as the first sign wanted to convey because the second sign had to be considered as well. It got me to thinking about our churches and about our pre-

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## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

servation of welcome to everybody. It may not be as well received as we would want it to be because we have hanging behind it some warning signs. Like if you get involved with this group they may ostracize you, or if you cross this person in the right way at the wrong time, they not only bark but they will bite. Or maybe a sign that would read something like, "While a lot of people in our church may welcome you here, there are some of us that will take our good sweet time to evaluate you, and then we will tell you whether we are glad that you are here or not."

I know those kinds of signs do not hang around in our churches, but that kind of attitude becomes a part of the atmosphere that may be far more prominent, more pervasive, and more clearly understood than our welcome during the service. You see, here is the fact that our genuine welcome is not a program but an expression of who we are. It does not take place from the pulpit but begins even as someone may drive into a parking lot. The welcome to our church is either not shared by everyone or not expressed by everyone. It can be anyone who lets someone know that they are not welcome, and then they turn around and someone else acts as if they are glad they are here.

I was to speak in a conference in another state and I arrived at the church where the meeting was being held. I knew the pastor of the church, but he did not know me. As I went in and was making my way to the sanctuary where the meeting was to be held

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and the other one saying Beware of Dogs!

Of what importance is this to our churches anyway? I must tell you that it is of great importance because there are people who need someone who cares who will tell them about a Christ who wonderfully loves us and cares for us. They may never come to know that if they do not know that we care, that we have time for them, and that they are welcome among us.

Recently I was talking with one of our retired pastors who is working with one of our churches as an interim. The church where he is serving is looking for a pastor, and they are convinced that if they get the right man the numbers will go up and their outreach will be terrific. This wise pastor was telling me how difficult it is to try to convince them and to help them understand that just bringing someone in to be the pastor is not going to do that. He explained to them in these terms that he could visit every home, knock on every door, invite everybody, and welcome them to the church but the community knows you. If you do not reach out to them and care for them regardless of what the new pastor does, the growth will not happen. He is right. The writer of Proverbs said, "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly" (Prov. 18:24). If a church is going to reach out to folks with the power of the Gospel, there must be a warmth, a welcome, and a relationship coming from us even as it comes from heaven.

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mcb.org).

NEWSONG

# GIVE

YOURSELF AWAY



NEWSONG

BLUETREE

ANNA VAUGHAN

NOV 15 - 6 PM

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GUEST SPEAKER TONY NOLAN

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 12, 2009

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

*Merry Christmas to pastors in the  
Baptist Conventions of Dakota and Montana*

## The suit Project

### • What is the suit project?

For over 46 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to pastors in new work areas. Many of these pastors have no suit nor have the extra money to purchase one. By sending them a suit we are letting the pastors know that we care about them and that we support their work.

### • What can I do?

Simply make a donation to the ministry. Each suit will cost \$135. This can be a special project for Men's Ministry groups, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, or WMU groups. For churches or individuals looking for a ministry that really touches someone's life, the Suit Project is the perfect choice.

### • Where do I send my donation?

Make your check payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and designate your check to the Suit Project.

#### Mail to:

Men's Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530  
(Questions? Call Deanna Vail, 601-292-3335 or 1-800-748-1651)

**Pastors' Wives** If funds are available, we will send a clothing gift certificate for the pastor's wife! Often they go without things that they want or need to support their husband's ministry. This is a wonderful way to show them that they are not forgotten and that the support they provide their husband is truly appreciated.

## 2009 Legal Issues Checklist

now available



Contact  
Kay McDonnell at  
601.292.3305 or  
[kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org)  
to get a copy.



FBC, Louisville  
November 15  
6 p.m.

## **Bivo/Small Church Ministers and Wives Retreat**

Contact Kay McDonnell at 601.292.3305 or [kmcdonnell@mbcb.org](mailto:kmcdonnell@mbcb.org) for information.

# **7th Annual State Senior Adult Evangelism Rally**

**February 2, 2010,  
from 8 - 11:45 A.M.  
FBC, Billerica**

**PREFACE**  
**JOHN BISAGNO**



**2007-2008**

**Clayton Jordan  
John Patterson  
Randy Oswalt  
Don Hicks  
Huey Dedmon  
Daniel Hall**

Contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for more info:  
[gshows@mbcb.org](mailto:gshows@mbcb.org), 601-292-3373  
or 1-800-748-1651

# SATISPIES



WHOM HAVE I IN HEAVEN BUT YOU?  
AND EARTH HAS NOTHING I DESIRE BESIDES YOU.

PSALM 73:25



David BRASHIER



SOULSTICE



KINGDOM DOG



SAMMY NUCCI

## YOUTH EVANGELISM CHALLENGE

DECEMBER 28-29, 2009

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

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REGISTRATION BEGINS

3pm

CHALLENGE CO. CLASSES

Tue., Dec. 29

p.m.

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All presenters will be experienced Christian teachers  
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2010 (CEC)  
Christian Education  
Clinics

MERIDIAN  
February 13

MADISON  
March 13

## 2010 Baptist Doctrine Study



**SPIRITUAL  
DISCIPLINES**  
Preview Study and Brunch  
Wayne VanHorn  
*Dean, School of  
Christian Studies  
Mississippi College*

### MONDAY, JANUARY 18

Lauderdale Baptist Association Office  
Marion, Miss.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 25

Sky Room, Baptist Bldg.  
515 Mississippi Street  
Jackson



*LifeWay Study  
Course Book*

9 a.m. - noon  
(for both studies)

Preregister with [dbrashier@mbcb.org](mailto:dbrashier@mbcb.org),  
601-292-3284,  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 284,  
online: [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)

## 2010 OPPORTUNITIES

Pastor/Leadership  
Development Department  
2010 Schedule of Events  
available

Contact Kay McDonnell  
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to get a copy.

*...whoever wants to do great things  
you must be your servant!*  
Matthew 10:42

*Pray this day for...*

**NOVEMBER 13-DECEMBER 3, 2009**

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3204 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

*"Do you not know that... you are  
not your own?"*

*I Corinthians 6:19*

Pray for David Waits, a Mississippi pastor now serving in Grande Prairie, Canada. David is facing serious health issues. Pray for healing in his life so he may continue to serve.

16  
Pray for the 3.8 billion unreached people in the world made up of over 6,400 different people groups.

Pray for the Pakistani Christian families whose homes were burned and livestock was killed by Muslim extremists.

22  
Pray for Mississippi Baptists to be generous in their offerings during the International Missions Little Moon Christmas Offering emphasis, Nov. 29-Dec. 6 (IMMU Emphasis).

23  
Pray for a team from First Baptist Church, Philadelphia, as they travel to Beijing, China, Nov. 23-Dec. 3.

29  
Pray for a team of Mississippi Baptists traveling to a country in South Asia to work in the area of leadership development on Nov. 30-Dec. 12.

Pray for factory workers in Shandong Province, China (Shan-a-dong). Give thanks to God that access has been gained to a huge factory of many workers. Pray that believers will know how to share Christ in this factory.

Pray for Christians in countries that allow them to be mistreated, beaten, imprisoned and killed. Pray for women who are abused by their family members because they choose to follow Christ.

Pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit on Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting and Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting [100-member Board].

Ask God to bless and sustain Christian workers, and use them to start and nurture fellowships of believing Albanians. Pray for more workers: Christian teachers, business people and servant leaders, who can love and build relationships with Albanians.

Pray for children forced into military service and pressured into killing. Pray that they will be able to escape their captors, find safety and recover from the horrific memories that haunt them.

Pray for single mothers who must leave their children at home alone, in day cares, with grandparents or with other caretakers, so they can work to provide for the family because they don't receive any help from the children's fathers.

Please continue to pray for the Smith family from Corinth, Mississippi, as they serve at the International School in Malaysia. Everyday they have an opportunity to influence non-Christian students for Christ.

Take time to thank God for your many blessings this Thanksgiving Day. We have been blessed to be a blessing. Ask God how he wants you to pass your blessing to bless others.

Pray for (1) courage for churches in Iraq who have been targeted by bombs; believers are afraid to meet there; (2) courage for house church members risking arrest and imprisonment by Chinese officials every time they meet.

Pray for Brad Jones and his family as they serve a church plant in South Glens Falls, NY. Brad is from Mississippi. On a personal note of prayer, he will have two sons serving in Afghanistan with the US Marine Corp in 2010.

Pray for Calhoun Baptist Association as they have an On Mission Celebration Nov. 14th-16th. Pray that their churches will be encouraged to further mission involvement after they spend time with missionaries and hear stories of what God is doing locally and around the world.

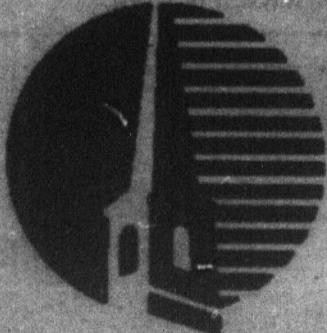
Pray for Yellowstone Baptist College in Montana as it works to train indigenous Baptist leaders for the Northwest region of the US. Pray for the efforts of the Mississippi Baptist Convention as they work to develop promotional video that will aid the college in recruiting more students.

Pray for Mississippi Baptists teaching adult literacy to develop opportunities to share God's love with the many who do not know him.

Pray for the young women trapped in sex slavery. Pray that they will be able to escape this environment and find love, protection and acceptance in the family of God.

## TRANSITIONAL PASTOR MINISTRY TRAINING

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PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
Department



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by January 1, 2010.

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601-292-3225

**HOUSE TOPS**

## COLLEGE NEWS



1. Blue Mountain College homecoming court



2. Mississippi College table tennis team



3. William Carey University performing tour group

1. Michal Roberson (center), a senior from Arkabutla, has been chosen 2009 Blue Mountain College Homecoming Queen. BMC maids are (front row, left to right): Arnie Clark, North Carrollton; Joy Pierce, Byhalia; Audri Morris, Mooreville; Megan Fisher, Mathiston; C.J. Hopper, Ripley; and Ashley Gardner, Tupelo. Their escorts are (back row): Brian Blair, Salem, Ill.; Aaron White, Dumas; Micah Gilmore, Huntsville, Ala.; Andrew Best, Pride, La.; Tremaine Sterling, Baton Rouge, La.; and Jonathan Kirk, Fulton.

2. The Mississippi College table tennis team won the Dixie Division tournament Oct. 31. Members shown are, Bill Cai, Zhicheng "Johnson" Liang, Captain Ken Qiu, Ou Lan; (front row) Jessica Zhou and Jenny Wu.

3. Sixteen William Carey University students and faculty participated in a performing tour to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and several mountain towns. On tour they sang in schools, churches, markets, and at the University of Candido Mendes Orchestra. From October 29 through November 7, the WCU group partnered with Carey alumna Tony and Karen Gray, missionaries to Brazil, to provide music workshops and concerts. Posters printed in Portuguese were designed to promote the events in Brazil.

4. William Carey University church music major Daniel Sanford of Hattiesburg is



4. Sanford and Caldwell



5. Harrison and Caldwell

shown receiving a check from Daniel Caldwell, dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies. Sanford received the ninth annual William Washburn Scholarship from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board of Ministerial Education (BME). Established by the BME in 2001, the scholarship honors Dean Washburn upon his retirement after 35 years of service at Blue Mountain College. Sanford, originally from Daphne, Ala., is minister of music at Grace Chapel Church in the Lebanon Association.

5. Chris Harrison of Stringer is shown receiving a schol-

arship award from Daniel Caldwell, dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies, during a presentation at William Carey University. The Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention selected Harrison to receive the \$1000 William Clawson Scholarship. Established in 1987 at his retirement, the scholarship honors Clawson's years of service as Chairman of the Religion Department at WCU and as Campus Representative to the Board. Harrison is a religion major at Carey and serves as pastor of Stringer Church in the Jasper Association.

**IT'S CHRISTMAS**  
WITH CANDY LEE & GMEA

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## STAFF CHANGES



1. Shiloh Church, Sontag



4. Mangum



6. The Sharps

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## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Shiloh Church, Sontag, has called Marcus Jackson as children and youth minister effective Oct. 4. Shown are pastor Andy Fullington, deacon chairman Wilson Farnham Jr., and Jackson.
2. Port Gibson Church, Port Gibson, has called Jim Kultau as pastor. Kultau comes from Fernwood Church, Gulfport. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.
3. Utica Church, Utica, has called Stanley McCall "Rocky" Henriques as pastor.
4. Rolling Creek Church, Quitman, has called Greg Mangum as minister of music and youth effective Sept. 30. Mangum is a student at Meridian Community College and will attend the University of West Alabama. He is also a student at New Orleans Seminary and a student at Lay Theological Seminary.
5. Friendship Church, McComb, has called Brandon Lynch as youth minister effective Oct. 7. Lynch has served six months as interim youth minister and is a native of Brusly, La.
6. White Oak Church, Neshoba County, has ordained and called Eric Sharp as pastor. He is shown with his wife Amanda and son Eli.



## Squire Parsons

Saturday—November 14th

6:30 PM

Parkside Baptist church

2470 Davis Road

(Across From Byram Volunteer Fire Station)

—NURSERY PROVIDED—



EVERYONE INVITED TO  
ENJOY AN EVENING OF  
GREAT GOSPEL MUSIC  
AND PRAISE

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### Treat Everyone Equally

James 2:1-13



By Ken Anderson

When the classical music world realized that their system of auditioning new musicians for a place in a symphony was corrupt, they began to erect screens between the judges and the individuals who were auditioning. When factors like outward appearance and unconscious prejudices were removed, only pure ability was considered. As a result in the past 30 years, with the screens in place, the number of women in the top U.S. Orchestras has increased fivefold. (Malcolm Gladwell, *Blink*, pp.250-254, 2005). This lesson is about removing prejudices from relationships with others.

**Don't Show Favoritism 2:1-4:**

James told an unforgettable parable of favoritism. Two men went to church on the same day at the same time at the same place. One man we

will name Mr. Gold Finger (Vs.2). He entered worship wearing gold rings as if gold was dripping from his fingers and wearing a bright toga. His appearance reflects his luxurious life style. In contrast, another man we will name Mr. Cringing Beggar entered the worship service. His apparel reflected a lifestyle of mere subsistence. The reception the men received is a case study in prejudice. Mr. Gold Finger was ushered to a seat of honor, while Mr. Cringing Beggar was told to sit on the floor by the speaker's footstool. James asked two questions in verse four that required a "yes" answer. Yes, they had demonstrated favoritism among the believers.

**Honor Those in Need 2:5-7:**

In addition to exhibiting favoritism in the sitting arrangements in worship, they

had insulted and dishonored the poor. In direct opposition to God's practice and directions, they robbed the poor of their dignity while favoring the wealthy. James forcefully laid out three glaring examples of their hypocrisy.

The wealthy people were the ones that oppressed them. They used the synagogue courts to legally take from them their meager resources. Most of all they blasphemed the name of Christ. Was it out of fear of or a desire to please the rich that caused their prejudice and favoritism?

Regardless, "Throughout scripture . . . God is merciful to the poor and He expects us to be the same; and if we are not, we are guilty of sin" (*The Work of Faith*, Spiros Zodhiates, p166).

#### Triumph through Mercy

2:8-13:

Interpreters differ on the explanation of the "royal law" (Vs.8). Perhaps Earl Kelly explained it best, "the law referred to is the command of Jesus: 'Thou shalt love thy

neighbor as thyself' (Matt. 22:39). It is the highest law that man can acknowledge. Moses recorded this law in Leviticus 19:18" (James, a Primer for Christians Living, pp.118-119). Some protested James' criticism of favoritism, with the argument that love should be demonstrated to the rich as well as the poor. James had no objection to applying the law equitably but their sin of prejudice was evident (Vs. 8b-9).

James' Jewish Christian audience understood to break one of God's laws was to break all of them. Their favoritism toward the rich and prejudice toward the poor had violated all of God's law (Vs. 10). They would be judged by the "law of liberty" that is the royal law.

One will be judged on the basis of acts of mercy or the lack of mercy (Vs.12). But the good news is that God is consistent in being merciful toward the penitent. "Mercy triumphs over judgment" (Vs.13).

#### Insights:

In Western Colorado there is a road called the Million Dollar Highway. The name does not refer to the cost of

the construction. Rather, the name is derived from the waste materials from the ore in gold mines that was used as the bed for the highway. And not all the gold dust and nuggets were removed by the mining processes available at the time. As a result, there is a partial roadbed of gold that is probably worth a lot more than a million dollars. It isn't the cost that gave its name, but rather what is inside of it (Leith Anderson's sermon *How to Treat People*, *PreachingToday.com*.) It is not the outward appearance, but what is in the inner self.

"Nobody will know what you mean by saying that 'God is love' unless you act it as well." - Lawrence Fearsall Jacks.

Is it favoritism when church members are elected to church positions because of their prestige or education rather than Christian maturity and spiritual leadership gifts?

Appearances should never become a value higher than one's character.

*Anderson is Transitional Pastor, Tremont First Church, Tremont.*

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Live Righteously

Psalm 112



By Ginger M. Caughman

How do you and I live as people of God? Can we live a righteous life in an ungodly world? The Bible calls us to holy and righteous living. How can we demonstrate the characteristics of godliness? All these questions arise reading the title of this lesson. Scripture has answers. Let's study the Bible. "No one is righteous, no not one" (Rom. 3:10, 21-23).

In Paul's epistle to the church in Ephesus, he stressed the unity of believers and gives a reminder that our salvation is the gift of God's grace and not by our works (2:8). God teaches us about righteous living through our relationship with Him and our interaction with others. I love singing: "He became sin, who knew no sin; that we might become His righteousness" (2 Corinthians 5: 21 KJV).

In this unit titled, "Living in

Harmony with God" we study Psalms 1, 112, 116 and the longest book in the Bible. Begin a slow reading now of Psalm 119. This week, let us focus on Psalm 112 for clues to righteous living.

"Righteousness in the original languages denotes far more than in English. In Biblical usage, righteousness is rooted in covenants and relationships." I like the words guidelines and maintenance in explaining the background of this term. The law was given as an act of divine mercy to provide Israel with guidelines for keeping the nation's own portion of the covenant. The law was understood to be a divine program for the maintenance of a healthy relationship between Israel and God. As Israel kept the covenant law, the nation was righteous" (Marion Soards. "Holman Bible Dictionary"). A long description,

but I condensed to inform our minds and hearts regarding serious prayer needs for our country! Also for the people of God in our country.

"God bless America," we pray. He has. Let us unite our hearts and continue to pray, "God please forgive Christians in America!" The Psalms speak the whole truth of life.

"God, we want to pray faithfully for Your mercy on our lives and on our nation. Help Christians live righteous lives. Please restore righteousness to Your people. Only by Your grace. Amen." A challenging Psalm.

#### 1. A Priority on God v. 1

Praise God! Psalm 112 is one of the Hallelujah Hymns but also a Wisdom Psalm. "This acrostic psalm develops the praise of the Lord entirely along the lines of wisdom literature" ("Holman Bible Handbook"). "A person who fears the Lord and pursues godly wisdom is blessed. A godly person gives God priority and delights in His Word." Psalms 11 and 112 praise

God. "Wisdom Psalms probe life's mysteries to teach the congregation about itself and God" (Holman Bible Dictionary).

#### 2. A Heart for Others vv. 2-5

"A godly person influences and blesses those around him; he leaves a spiritual legacy (v.2); reflects the character of God (vv.3b-4); and conducts his business with integrity" (v.5).

"He is gracious, full of compassion and righteous" (v.4). Spurgeon says: "When God makes a man upright, He makes him like Himself. True religion is sanctified common sense" (v. 5).

#### 3. An Inner Strength vv. 6-10

"The righteous will be remembered forever" (v. 6b). Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, and David are still remembered today

in the roll-call of the faithful in Hebrews 11 as are many others in the "great cloud of witnesses" throughout Scripture. Dressing daily in God's whole armor, the Christian's breastplate is righteousness (Eph. 6:14).

"A godly person is marked by stability and confidence in the Lord and is steady in adversity." How is God speaking to you today? Being more faithful: in prayer; reading His Word; taking time to meditate on His Holy Word; living out His commands with others; loving yourself; serving others..

Let us pray for Godly righteousness and Christ-centered homes, families, friendships, churches, and nations! We serve a mighty God. His kingdom is eternal! Ponder this sentence: Righteousness is intrinsic for a Christian.

Prayer: Father, You alone are holy and righteous. Empower me to live by faith in the strength of the finished work of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Caughman teaches the Bible and sings in two choirs at First Church, Magee.*

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

# THE BAPTIST RECORD

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital prints are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefit and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch



2. Branch Church, Morton



3. Old Hebron Church, New Hebron



4. Blythe Creek Church, Choctaw Association

1. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, recognized Yvonne Burkes for more than 20 years as Sunday School and Discipleship Training secretary. Shown is pastor Joe Caldwell presenting a plaque to Burkes.

2. The Mission Friends of Branch Church, Morton, collected baby items to present to the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Forest. Shown are the participants.

3. Old Hebron Church, New Hebron, exceeded their goal for the Margaret Lackey State Missions offering. Shown are Fannie Mae Wynn and Joyce Hiel.

4. Blythe Creek Church, Choctaw Association, recently honored Dorothy Shurden with a plaque commemorating 50+ years of teaching children's Sunday School. Shown are pastor Mike Fondren, Shurden, and Greg Pritchard.

5. The children of Antioch Church, Union, held a children's camp at Twin Lakes Retreat July 27 - 29. Shown are the participants.

6. Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, held a recognition service for the children and youth mission groups. Shown, front row, are Savannah Green, Elizabeth Busby, and Pam Busby; back row, Donna Gilliam, Ruth O'Neal, and Tonya Busby.

7. Meadville Church, Franklin Association, recently purchased a new 25 passenger bus from Carpenter Bus Sales, Franklin, Tenn. Shown are Gene Baker, John Farris, Percy Peeler, and interim pastor Emory May.

8. Tocowa Church, Courtland, recently ordained Corey Mitchell as deacon. Shown are Mitchell, his wife Connie, his children Corey "Little Red" and Courtney, and Terrell McGreger, pastor.

9. Union Church, Tylertown, is hosting a Christmas crafts Bazaar at the Tylertown Events center Nov. 20, 4 - 9 p.m. and Nov. 21, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., including vendors with arts and crafts, homemade wood items, baby items, Christmas items, concessions, and a carriage ride. Booths still available. For information, call (601) 222-1852.



5. Antioch Church, Union



6. Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch



7. Meadville Church, Franklin Association



8. Tocowa Church, Courtland